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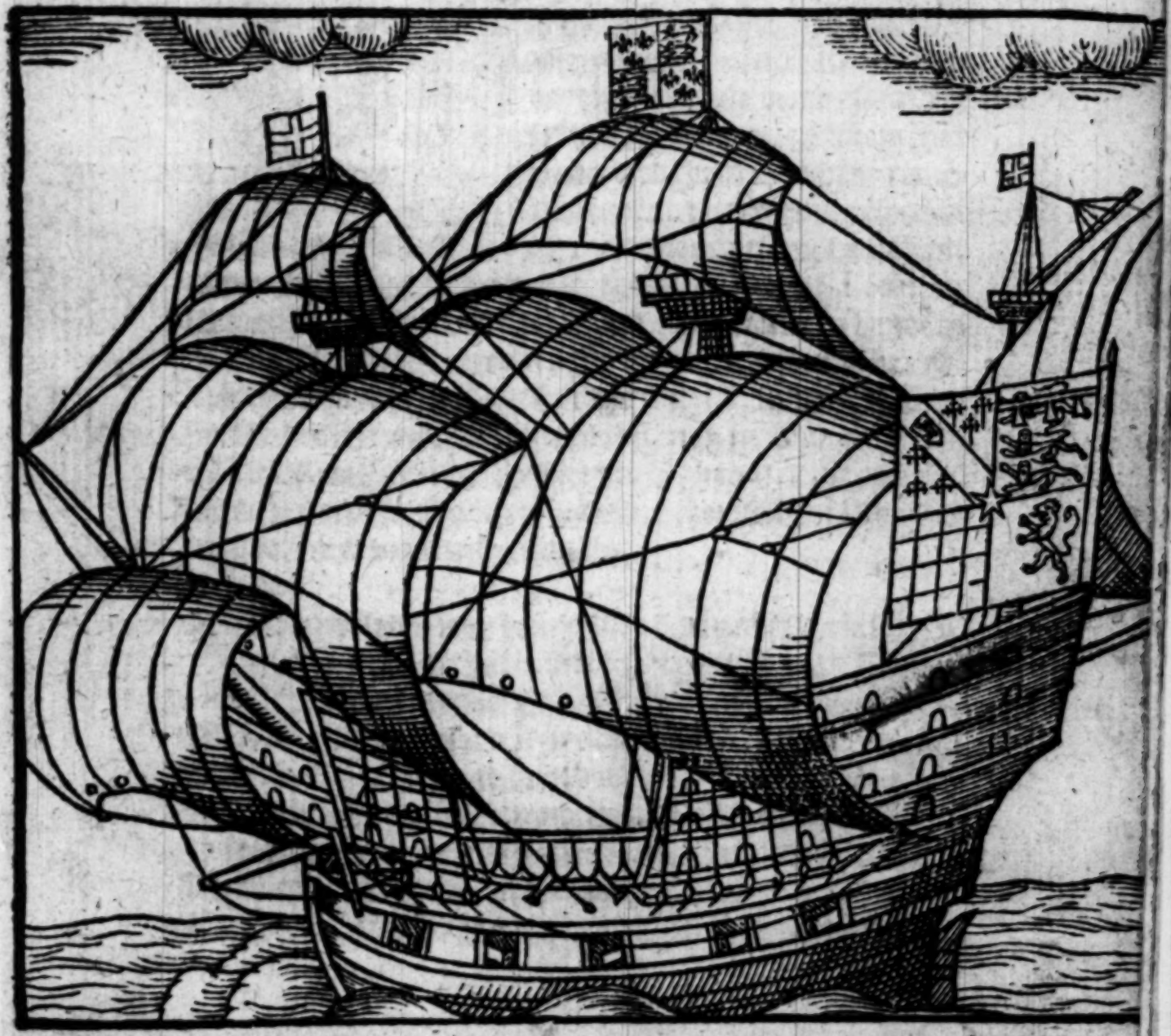
The Primroſe of London,

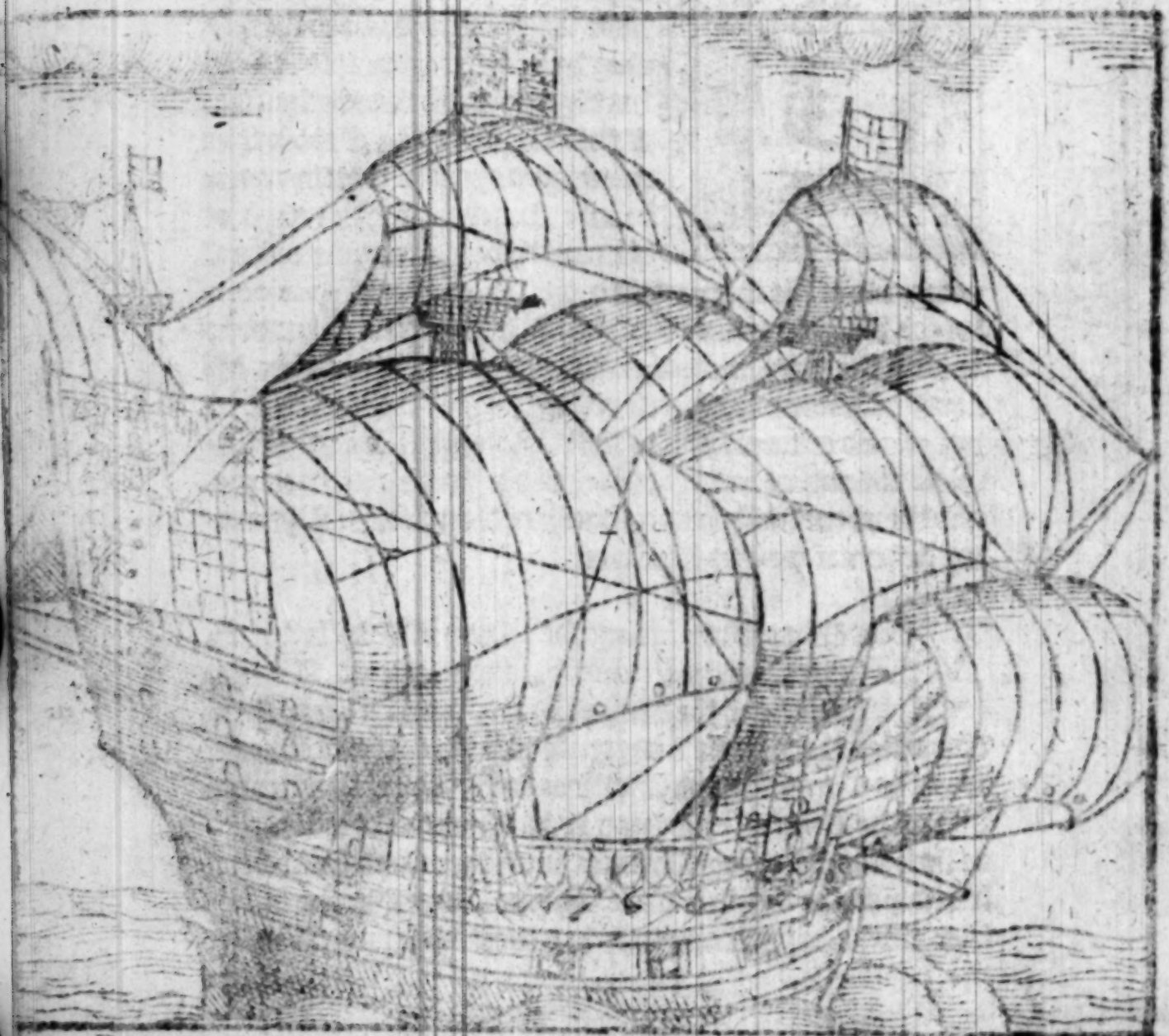
with her valiant aduenture on the Spaniſh coaſt, bœing of the burthen of 150. Tunne.

Declaring the maner how 97. Spanyards came aboord the ſame ſhip, the courſe of the ſkirmiſh, and how by their valiancie they diſcomfited them. Whereunto is added the copie of the Kinges commiſſion for the imbarment of all Engliſh Ships. Truely publiſhed by Humphrey Mote.



¶ Imprinted at London for Thomas Nelſon. 1585.

The Primrole of London.



The valiant aduen-ture of the *Primrose*.

IT is not vnknowne vnto a fewe, what daunger our English ships haue lately escaped, how sharply they haue beene entreated, & how hardly they haue beene assaulted: so that the valiancie of those that mannaged them is worthy remembrance. And therefore in respect of the courageous attempt & valiant enterprise of the shippe called the Primrose of London, which hath obtained renowne, I haue taken in hande to publish the truth thereof, to the intent that it may bee generally knowne to the rest of the English shippes, that by by the good example of this the rest may in time of extremitie aduenture to do the like: to the honor of the realme, and the perpetuall remembrance of themselues: The manner whereof was as followeth.

VPon Wednesday being the 26. day of May last past, the ship called the Primrose, being of 150. Tunne, lying without the Bay of Bilbo, hauing beene there two daies there came a Spanish Pinisse to them, wherin was the Corigidor and six others with him: these came aboord the Primrose, seeming to be Merchants of Byskie, or such like, bringing Cherries with them, and spake very friendly to the maister of the Shippe, whose name is Foster, and he in curteous wise had them welcome, making

them the best cheere that he could: as beere, beefe, and bisket, wherewith that ship was well furnished: and being thus in banqueting with the maister, foure of the seuen departed in the said Pinnisse, and went backe againe to Bilbo: the other three staied, and were very pleasant for the time: But M. Foster misdoubting some daunger, secretly gaue speech that he was doubtful of these men what their intent was, neuertheleſſe he said nothing, nor seemed not in any outward wise to mistrust them at all. Forthwith there came a ship-boate wherein was 70. persons, beeing Merchantes, and such like of Bisky: and besides this boate, there came also the Pinnisse which before had brought the other three, in which Pinnisse there came 24. as the Spaniards themselues since confessed. These made towardes the Primrose, and being come thither, there came aboord the Corrigidor with three or foure of his men: but M. Foster seeing this great multitude, desired y there might no more come aboord, but that the rest should stay in their boates, which was graunted: neuertheleſſe, they tooke small heed of these words, for on a sodaine they came forth of the boate, entring the shippe, euery Spanyard taking him to his Rapier which they brought in the boate, with other weapons, and a Drum wherewith to triumph ouer them. Thus did the Spanyards enter the ship, plunging in fiercly vpon them, some planting themselues vnder the decke, some entring the Tabbens, and a multitude attending their pray. Then the Corrigidor hauing an officer with him which bare a white wand in his hand, saide to the maister of the ship: Yeelde your selfe, for you are the Kings prisoner: whereat the maister said to his men, We are betraied. Then some of them set daggers to his breſt, and seemed in furious maner as though they would haue slaine him, meaning nothing leſſe then to doe anie such acte, for all that they sought was to bring him & his men safe aliue to shore: whereat the maister was amazed, and his men greatly discomfited to see themselues readie:

die to be conueied euen to the slaughter: notwithstanding some of them respecting the danger of the maister, and sæing howe with themselues there was no way but present death if they were once landed among the Spanyardes, they resolued themselues either to defend the maister, and generally to shun that daunger, or els to die and be buried in the middest of the sea, rather then to suffer themselues to come into the tormentors hands, and therefore in verie bolde and manly sort some toke them to their iauelings, launces, bore-speares, and shot, which they had set in readines before, and hauing 5 Caleuers ready charged, which was all the small shot they had, those that were vnder the hatches or the grate, did shote vp at the Spanyards that were ouer their heades, which shot so amased the Spanyards on the sodaine, as they could hardly tell which way to escape the daunger, fearing this their small shot to be of greater number then it was: others in very manly sorte dealt about among them, shewing themselues of that courage with bore-speares and launces, that they dismaied at euery stroke two or three Spanyards. Then some of them desired the maister to command his men to cease and hold their hands, but he answered that such was their courage in defence of their owne liues, that they would slay them and him also: and therfore it lay not in him to do it. Now did their bloud run about the ship in great quantitie, some of them beeing shot in betweene the legges, the bullets issuing forth at their brests, some cut in the head, some thrust into the body, and many of them very sore wounded, so that they came not so fast in on the one side, but now they tumbled as fast ouer bord on both sides with their weapons in their hands, some falling into the sea, and some getting into their boates, making haste towards the Citie. And this is to be noted, that although they came very thicke thither, there returned but a small company of them, neyther is it knowne as yet howe many of them were slaine or drowned, onely one English man was then slain, whose

name was Iohn Triſtram, and 6 other hurt. It was great pitie to beholde how the Spanyards lay ſwimming in the ſea, and not able to ſaue their liues, foure of them taking holde of the ſhip, were for pitie ſake taken vp againe by M. Foſter and his men, not knowing what they were: all the Spanyards boſoms were ſtuft with paper, to defend them from the ſhot, and theſe foure hauing ſome woundes were dreſt by the ſurgion of the ſhip. one of them beeing the Corigidor himſelfe, who is gouernour of a hundred Townes and Cities in Spaine, his liuing by his office, better then 600. pound yeerely. This ſkirmiſh happened in the euening about ſix of the clocke, after they had laden 20. Tun of goods and better out of the ſaide ſhip: which goods was deliuered by two of the ſame ſhippe, whoſe names were Iohn Burrell, and Iohn Brodbanke, theſe beeing on ſhore were ſtaied, and are yet remaining there, God comfort them, for they are now in priſon.

After this valiant enterpriſe of 28. Engliſh men againſt 97. Spaniards, they ſawe it was in vaine for them to ſtay and therefore ſet vp ſayles, and by Gods prouidence auoided all daunger, brought home the reſt of their goodes, and came thence with all expedition, and God be thanked, arriued ſafely in England neere London on Wedneſday being the 8. day of June, 1585. In which their returne to England, the Spanyardes that they brought with them offered 500. Crownes to be ſet on ſhore in any place, and ſeeing that the maiſter would not do it, they were content to be ruled by them, and craued mercie at their handes. And after Maiſter Foſter demaunded why they came in ſuch ſort to betray and deſtroy them, to whom the Corigidor anſwered, that it was not done onely of themſelues, but by the commaundement of the King himſelfe, and calling for his hoſe which were wette, did plucke forth the Kings Commiſſion, by which he was authoriſed to do all that he did: The Copie whereof followeth, being tranſlated out of Spaniſh.

¶ THE

¶THE KING.

LIcentia de ſcober my Corigidor ofi my ſigria of *Bisky*, I haue cauſed a great fleete to be put in readines in the hauen of Lisbon, and the riuer of Cyuil. There is required for the ſouldiers armour, victuals, and munition, that are to be imploied in the ſame great ſtore of ſhipping of all ſortes againſt the time of ſeruice, and to the end there may be choiſe made of the beſt vpon knowledge of their burthen and goodnes: I do therefore require you, that preſently vppon the arriuall of this carrier, and with as much diſſimulation as may be, that the matter may not be knowne vntill it be put in execution: take order for the ſtaying and arreſting (with great prouiſion) of all the ſhipping that may be found vpon the coaſt, and in the ports of the ſaid ſegnoury: excepting none of Holland, Zeland, Elterland, Germany, England, and other Prouinces that are in rebellion againſt me, ſauing thoſe of France which being litle, and of ſmal burthen and weake, are thought vnfit to ſerue the turne. And the ſtay being thus made, you ſhall haue a ſpeciall care that ſuch merchandize as the ſaid ſhippes or hulkes haue brought whether they be all or part vnladen may be taken out, and that the armour, munition, takels, ſayles, and victuals may be ſafely beſtowed, as alſo that it may be well foreſeene, that none of the ſhippes or men may eſcape away. Which thinges being thus executed, you ſhall aduertiſe me by an expreſſe meſſenger of your proceeding therein: And ſend me a plaine and diſtinct declaration of the number of ſhippes that you ſhall haue ſo ſtayed in that coaſt and partes, whence euery one of them is which belongs to my Rebels, what burthen and goods there are, & what number of men in euery of them, and what quantitie they haue of Armory, Ordinance, munition, victuals, tacklings, and other neceſſarie, to the ende that vpon ſight hereof, hauing made choiſe of ſuch as ſhall bee fit for the ſeruice, we may further direct you what ye ſhall do. In the maane time you ſhall preſently ſee this my commaundement put in execution, and if there come thither any more ſhippes, you ſhall alſo cauſe them to be ſtaied and areſted after the ſame order, vſing therin ſuch care and diligence, as may aunſwere the truſt that I repoſe in you, wherein you ſhall do me great ſeruice. Dated at Barſelonia the 29. of May.

And

And thus haue you heard the truth and maner therof wherein is to be noted the great courage of the maister, and the louing harts of the seruants to saue their maister from the daunger of death: yea, and the care which the maister had to saue so much of the owners goodes as hee might, although by the same the greatest is his owne losse in that he may neuer trauel those partes any more without the losse of his owne life, nor yet any of his seruantes: for if hereafter they should (being knowne) they are like to tast of the sharpe tormentes which is there accustomed in their hellish, alias holy house. And as for their tearming English ships to be in rebellion against them, it is sufficiently knowne by themselues, and their owne conscience cannot deny it, but that with loue, vnitie, and concord, our shippes haue euer beene fauourable vnto them, and as willing to pleasure their King, as his subiectes any way willing to pleasure English passingers.

The God of heauen preserue the Quéenes maiestie of England, who liueth and ruleth in mercie, loue, peace, and vnitie, putting vp all wronges whatsoeuer:

God grant her highnes long to raigne ouer England in health, as she hath long continued, and God grant ỹ hir enemies, and all traytors to her highnes may come to confusion, Amen.

FINIS.